



FASHION INTERNATIONAL

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FASHION WORLD

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THE PARIS/NY CONNECTION

Globally, the Fall/Winter '98 menswear collections celebrate a modern elegance. Although the past is evident there are no "period pieces," as these designs combine luxurious fabrics with streamlined silhouettes. Cashmere and angora blend with wool for everyday wear, while corduroys and flannels are brushed for velvety softness to go from day-to-evening. Stretch comes into play for shape and movement, as designs become body conscious but do not restrict. Colors are deep, with new tones of burgundy and plum; and shades of gray overcome black.

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HIGH FIVE SPOTLIGHTING MENSWEAR AT ITS BEST

HUGO BOSS

There's enormous diversity in the HUGO BOSS menswear collection, with wearability the watchword. The lines are clean and, when tailored, cut close to the body; the mood is comfortable, and the look is classic with a modern twist. Natural fabrics are spotlighted — wool, flannel, cotton, corduroy, leather, herringbone, silk/cashmere knits and crepes. The palette is subdued and

subtle, including grays and a range of blues from steel to navy. Neutral tones are important, featuring beige, taupe, khaki, olive, brown, camel, and pearl juxtaposed with black and burgundy. The key jacket in suiting is the high closure 2 to 3-button jacket, that is slim and fitted with a natural shoulder line. This jacket silhouette pairs with a flat-front or a single pleat trouser with straight leg. The knitted tie makes a reappearance, looking fresh and

new. Coats are cut looser than in previous seasons, worn above the knee or ultra-long. A favorite combination is the 3/4 length gray wool twill weave coat with blue cotton shirt, gray wool tie, and navy twill weave trouser.

Inspiration in another group is derived from the urban ranger, where uniform-inspired colors, such as air force blue and olive are teamed with loden fabrics.

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Emphasis here is on top-stitching details and patch pockets to create a casual yet elegant effect. Highlights include the olive cotton corduroy jacket, matching cotton shirt, and wool tie over khaki cotton pinwale cotton corduroy trousers; the brown leather shirt jacket with the ribbed merino wool "V" neck sweater and olive/black plaid wool trouser; the black leather pea coat over burgundy viscose shirt and charcoal gray flannel chalk stripe trousers; the "Nerdy Chic" black melton, hooded duffel coat over burgundy turtleneck and black corduroy trousers; and the all-black '60s-inspired combination of 3/4 leather coat, and crew neck sweater over velvet trouser.

JOSEPH ABBOUD

JOSEPH ABBOUD's collection fuses American casual elegance with the sartorial style of London's Saville Row for an easy sophistication. The subtle English influence is evident in the soft, luxurious fabrications, and the misty Scottish heathered highland hues and plaids. Fabrics include camel's hair, herringbone cotton, Shetland wool, vicuna wool, corded suede, micro-fibers, ribbed velvet, corduroy, wool knits, tweed and leather, with a variety of silk used for ties. The sumptuous Autumnal palette comprises camel, cement, cinnamon, navy, plum, brown, olive, black, and a host of grays in solids, plaids, pinstripes and herringbone. Standouts include the camel's hair vested suit and flecked silk tie over a herringbone cotton dress shirt with matching Shetland wool scarf; and the sporty quilted reversible micro-fiber car coat worn over ribbed velvet turtleneck

and cotton corduroy trouser. There is a handsome double pinstripe vested suit with cotton dress shirt and striped silk tie; and a black and gold evening jacket over black, ribbed cotton velvet turtleneck and charcoal wool trouser. For at home elegance — the exquisite paisley wool challis robe, bronze tuxedo shirt and wool trouser is smartly punctuated with black silk bow tie and matching cummerbund.

NAUTICA

NAUTICA mixes up categories and proportions resulting in a reinterpretation of traditional menswear: designer, David Chu, pairs a sport coat with track pants, and a fleece sweater with tailored trouser. The first group, Navy Style, combines sportswear with dark colored denim for an urban edge. The nautical mood of the

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JOSEPH ABBOUD

FUNCTIONAL FEMININITY

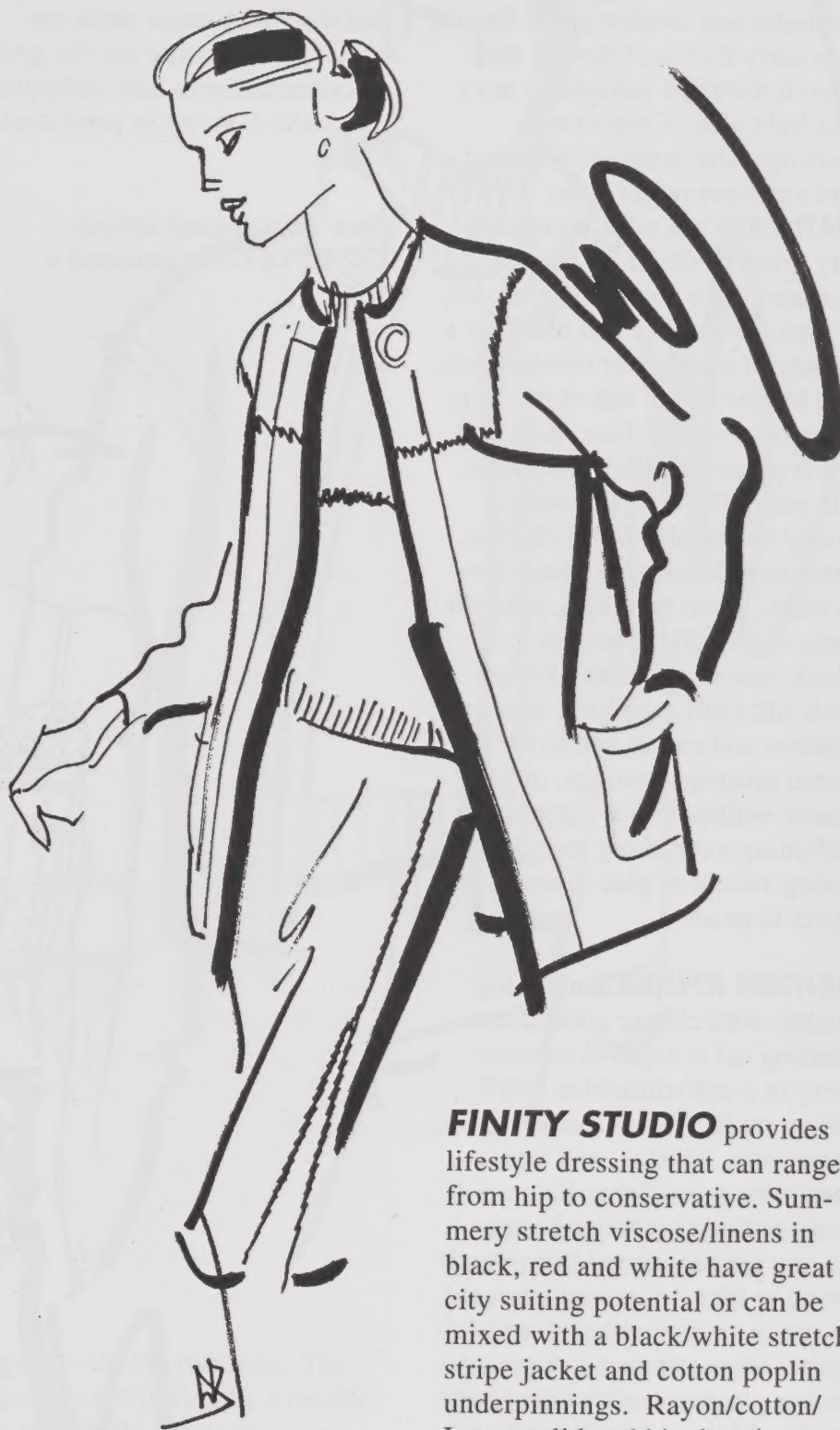
Summer/Transition RTW 1998

Fashion this season is all about personal style. The Summer/Transition collections evolved from Spring's themes have translated into a fashion free for all. That said, there's a trend towards looser clothing and styling that works for a variety of situations, from career to casual. The color palette is soft with an emphasis on neutrals, gray tones, navy and warmer vegetable shades that lead into early Fall. Some of the best and brightest RTW ideas can be found in the bridge and better collections.

NEIL BIEFF, already known for couture quality eveningwear, is reaching out in a new direction with a knitwear collection comprised of sophisticated, packable separates and dresses. Fashioned in luxurious Italian yarns, the line caters to all aspects of a woman's life, from career to casual, in velveens, cashmere and cashmere/Lycra blends, merino, shetlands and silk/wool blends. Colors are superb with unexpected mixes such as pairing a deep teal velveen cardigan and shell with a side-zip slim skirt in mustard. Neil's signature touch is the use of hand crocheted seam detailing in Bordeaux. Other color options include slate, green black, ombre tweeds, etc. Wonderfully versatile is his little racer back dress and cropped jacket in navy velveen, while the handloomed Shetland pieces are extremely chic, yet

NEIL BIEFF

casual, particularly the hooded pullover with drawstring sleeves and contrasting stripe, or the easy zip-front jacket. Both are perfect with slim merino pull-on pants.



FINITY STUDIO provides lifestyle dressing that can range from hip to conservative. Summery stretch viscose/linens in black, red and white have great city suiting potential or can be mixed with a black/white stretch stripe jacket and cotton poplin underpinnings. Rayon/cotton/Lycra solid and bicolored sweaters complete the group. This collection segues into Transition with shades of muted sage, thyme and black crepe georgette and twill. The spaced floral and rosemary prints provide soft

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dressing in long flowing skirts and dresses. Working back are pointelle and crochet knits. Easing into early Fall are tricotine and stretch pinstripe suitings in navy and light gray. Crisp cotton shirtings, silk interlock tops and knit sweaters round it out. **FINITY NATURALS** is a new, more casually oriented division. For Summer there are linen separates, in port, mushroom and black, in a variety of easy space dyed stripes, ikat border prints and more. Very refreshing are the lilac, mint and white pieces in silk/linen gauze, silk plaid, Fuji stripes, and a lovely watercolor floral chiffon. Transition features dupioni silks in black, plum and lapis, plus silk knits and waffle separates in black, cocoa and khaki. Finish with silk twill separates, in navy, tobacco and camel and navy/camel pinstripe suitings, or a sporty nailhead item topper. Softening everything are coordinating sweaters, plus dresses, and skirts in paisley.

BRITISH KHAKI marries top quality with classic good taste. Starting off is an all-American story in a red/white/blue 100% cotton twill, a beach cottage print, patchwork, Madras, and a rayon bandanna print. Other Summer looks include a group of cotton seersucker separates in raspberry/white or blue/white, and pure linens in vivid lime, pink and white. More subtle are the seersucker plaids in soft washed out shades. Moving into Transition is a toned down palette of burgundy, khaki and buff. The theme is African safari, with stylized print separates in linen/cotton, rayon and 100% cotton. A belted vest with concealed placket, in rayon corduroy, worn over a long

Nairobi print/plaid faux wrap skirt becomes a stylish work or week-end ensemble. The soft sanded poplin jacket, with patch pockets, and matching cargo pants are versatile. Rounding out the group are viscose/Lycra knit underpinnings and bottoms in patchwork cotton.

Now in its second season, **COMPLET.** has attracted a

following for very feminine young designer looks. Transition is a mix of tough girl/soft edge in great items, separates and dresses. The "Bungalow" group comes in stretch twill in shades of celadon, walnut and black. There are cool as a cucumber halter dresses and crisscross shifts, plus a great single-breasted jacket and

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COMPLET.

classic pea coat and turtleneck is updated with lean coats over stiff, navy denim wide leg jeans. A spark is added to the somber palette of dark gray and navy with a long slicker or sweater in bright yellow. A group in a neutral palette — caramel, chocolate brown, natural, khaki, stone, white, tan, black, and charcoal gray — presents silhouettes that veer from the tailored jacket to sporty, athletic separates or a combination of both. Cotton surplus pants, nylon track pants and cotton wide leg pants are favorites here paired with a charcoal gray wool unconstructed jacket and black lamb's wool crew neck; and a brown plaid fleece shell or a stone hound's tooth bomber jacket. In the "Urbane Country" mood, flannel and tweed are translated into sharply tailored single or double-breasted suits in warm tones of olive, gray and brown contrasted with vivid colored dress shirts. Highlights include a brown flannel 3-button suit with apple green cotton shirt and caramel wool tie; the brown wool cavalry twill double-breasted suit with lavender brushed wool shirt and chocolate wool tie and the olive wool suit with evergreen shirt and rust iridescent silk tie. "The Competition Group" sets an athletic tone with looser separates in hi-tech performance fabrics. Here Nautech fleece vests and shells in natural hues of white and ivory are layered over wider athletic pants.

CYNTHIA ROWLEY

The first menswear collection from CYNTHIA ROWLEY, a designer renowned for her pretty and often whimsical womenswear collections, does not stray far from her roots. She combines the

rugged with the romantic. The latter is exemplified by a prolific use of Liberty prints or an embroidered shirt. Her palette includes black, grays, navy, ecru, raisin, oatmeal, sage, greens, and the use of iridescence. Fabrics run the gamut — diamond jacquards, wool, stretch moleskin, leather, cashmere, mohair, fleece, denim, knits, and raw cut felt.



PERRY ELLIS

Witty titles underscore whimsical designs with "Patching Things Up," a Liberty print shirt over black leather pants; "All is Fair Isle," a Fair Isle sweater with black jeans; and "Home is Where the Plaid Is," drawstring pants worn with a sage cardigan. Details abound, ranging from hand painted shirts and embroidery to burnout treatments, sequin accents, and textured fabrics such as the wrinkled anthracite shirt. Rowley also features several

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INTERNATIONAL DATELINE

MARCH 22-27 NEW YORK
BRIDAL MARKET

MARCH 23-APRIL 17 NEW YORK
FALL WOMEN'S RTW MARKET

MARCH 27-APRIL 3 NEW YORK
WOMEN'S FALL DESIGNER
SHOWS

APRIL 2-6 ATLANTA
FALL I WOMEN'S MARKET

APRIL 3-7 CHICAGO
FALL I WOMEN'S MARKET

APRIL 4-7 NEW YORK
EX*TRACTS
(Aromatherapy, Home
Fragrances, Personal Care)

APRIL 4-7 CHICAGO
BRIDAL MARKET

APRIL 4-7 NEW YORK
NEW YORK HOME
TEXTILES SHOW

APRIL 6-8 NEW YORK
EUROPEAN TEXTILE SELECTION
(Italy, France, Spain, Austria,
Portugal)

APRIL 19-21 MIAMI
MEN'S & BOY'S APPAREL

APRIL 20-21 LOS ANGELES
ISAM
(Int'l Swimwear & Activewear)

APRIL 20-22 LOS ANGELES
INT'L TEXTILE SHOW

APRIL 26-28 DUSSELDORF
THE NEW IGEDO
(Women's RTW)

APRIL 28-30 NEW YORK
INPRINTS NY
(Textile Prints)

APRIL 28-30 NEW YORK
INT'L FASHION FABRIC
EXHIBITION

APRIL 28-30 NEW YORK
PRIVATE LABEL

APRIL 28-30 FRANKFURT
INTERSTOFF
(Fabrics & Accessories)

MAY 3-5 NEW YORK
STYLE INDUSTRIES
(Womenswear)

MAY 3-5 NEW YORK
A-STYLE
(Fall Accessories)

MAY 3-5 NEW YORK
FASHION ACCESSORY EXPO
(Fall Accessories)

MAY 3-5 ATLANTA
MEN'S MARKET

MAY 4-6 NEW YORK
ACCESSORIE CIRCUIT
(Fall Accessories)

MAY 4-6 NEW YORK
INTERMEZZO COLLECTIONS
(Women's RTW)

MAY 4-8 NEW YORK
FALL ACCESSORY MARKET

MAY 6-8 FLORENCE
LINEAPELLE
(Leather Hides & Skins)

MAY 11-13 NEW YORK
INTIMATE APPAREL SALON
(Fall Intimate Apparel)

MAY 11-15 NEW YORK
FALL INTIMATE APPAREL
MARKET

MAY 12-15 PARIS
INTERSELECTION
(Mass Market Apparel)

MAY 16-19 NEW YORK
NATIONAL STATIONERY
SHOW

MAY 18-20 NEW YORK
FUR FASHION COLLECTIONS

MAY 29-JUNE 1 MIAMI
WOMEN'S FALL II RTW/
ACCESSORIES MARKET

MAY 29-JUNE 2 CHICAGO
WOMEN'S FALL II RTW
MARKET

MAY 30-JUNE 2 NEW YORK
INT'L FASHION BOUTIQUE
SHOW

JUNE 1-12 NEW YORK
WOMEN'S HOLIDAY MARKET

JUNE 2-5 NEW YORK
FFANY
(Int'l Footwear)

JUNE 3-5 PARIS
EXPOFIL
(Yarns)

JUNE 3-5 MILAN
MODA PRIMA (formerly ESMA)
(Knitwear)

JUNE 4-8 ATLANTA
WOMEN'S FALL II MARKET

JUNE 8-10 NEW YORK
HBA GLOBAL EXPO
(Health, Beauty, Personal Care)

JUNE 11-15 LOS ANGELES
WOMENS RTW FALL II MARKET

JUNE 12-16 DALLAS
WOMEN'S FALL II MARKET

clamdiggers. Working back are nylon lace and ribbed stretch underpinnings in black and white. "Sweet Dreams" features bouquet embroidered rayon in chardonnay or merlot with delicate satin trim. Key pieces are the slip skirt, long dress, and a solid pin tucked camisole. Here, also, are delicate nylon/acrylic knits. The satin trimmed ribbon beaded camisole is especially lovely. Fabulous items include a straight coat cut just above the knee, with optional self tie belt, in a glazed stretch twill. It is worn over a bouquet embroidered slip dress that ends below the knee.

Summer at **CARYN VALLONE** calls for a sportswear group in stark black and white, in Italian viscose crepe, mercerized cotton, and poly-satin. In the latter there are feminine embroidered scalloped or latticework pieces. Particularly attractive is the long side-zip skirt worn with a solid polyester tank — all in pure white. For Transition, "Voyage" is a capsule group in Irish linen, cotton/linen stripes, cane stitch cotton, and Italian linen in a plaid or olive melange. Colors are ginger, honey, cinnabar, and olive. Slim pants and a pencil skirt are anchored with a variety of tops and sweaters. "On the Vine" offers strong mix and match pieces in wovens and knits, in shades of platinum, copper and onyx. A pointelle wrap sweater, in spun silk, over a ribbed halter tank works nicely with a flat-front A-line skirt. The skirt is in a pretty vine printed silk that picks up all the colors. Also chic is the ankle length wrap dress in the same silk print.

Look to **EQUATOR** for fashion forward collections. Chinoise is

their take on the ethnic trend. This group comes in polyester double georgette and rayon vine patterned jacquard, in indigo and plum. There are long flowing dresses with double layered georgette hems, a wrap and tie-top, braid trimmed jacket, vest and long front-wrap skirt — all featuring looped buttons. Very stylish is the Mandarin collared tunic over side-zip georgette pants. "Top Stitch Suitings" comes in a cross dyed, imported polyester in plum, silver and tea. Saddle stitch detailing delineates the shapely jackets that are available in three lengths, from short to elongated *tailleur*. Working back are coordinating short skirts and classic trousers.

For Summer, **A.K.A** turns to gauze, in solids, plaids and dots in a palette of natural, pond or pink. There are 2x2 rib cotton and washed cotton canvas items; vests, shirts, shorts and dresses complete the group. Next is "Malabar," which comes in white or cloudy gray. Find more relaxed bodies plus cotton fishnet underpinnings and cotton/spandex pointelle rib pieces. Younger and hipper is their newer division, **ALSO KNOWN AS**. Looking sharp is the white zip-front, hooded cardigan in a stretch nylon sheer over black faille Capri pants. The stripe shell underneath adds a fresh note. Cobweb mesh tops of 100% polyester complete this Summer group of casual weekend wear.

Summer dressing at **ESPRIT** calls for clean separates in white stretch pique, and moss green stripes with underpinnings in stretch poplin or embroidered rayon. Easy knit dressing comes in delicious shades of seaglass

green, moss or salad green and white. Easy, breezy shorts, draw-string pants, and mini skirt come in lichen green, sun yellow and stark white washed linen/cotton. Simple tank dresses in a rain forest gingham work nicely with this group. There are also little cotton jacquard and crochet inset ramie/cotton sweaters and a polo top in white with an "equator" stripe across the front.

At **MORE DASH THAN CASH** there are very stylish suiting options in washed cotton muslin, in natural or black. Narrow pants and the directional knife pleated skirt work underneath a zip-front jacket or elongated Velcro closed *tailleur*. Velcro is also used to close a simple wrap and tie sleeveless dress and mini skirt. Getting away from the minimalist look are the softly pretty pin tucked dress, with chiffon hem, and the ruched chiffon bodice dress. Handkerchief linen separates and dresses, in natural, aqua and black, can segue into Transition.

Transition at **RICHARD DAYHOFF** is short and sweet. The premise is sophisticated underplayed executive dressing in a chevron patterned, imported acetate/rayon blend in cobalt/black. The shawl collared jacket with loop button closure is particularly smart atop a cap sleeved sheath or slim skirt. More directional is the short, shaped, asymmetric closed jacket, with loop button, over newer wideleg pants. Rounding out this capsule group are simple crew neck tops, slim skirts and an all purpose one-button cardigan coat.

American, **TOMMY HILFIGER**, finds his inspiration in the Parisian culture of the '60s.

Thoroughly mod suitings, in punchy checks and plaids, are accentuated by cotton pique dress shirts with contrast trim. Ties are bold, featuring large polka dots or wide stripes. Jackets with high button closures, wide lapels and exaggerated flap pockets complete the look. Youthful, yet extremely elegant, are single-breasted jackets, with side or center back vents, pairing with straight leg pants.

ERIC BERGERE's French designs are playful. Broken into themes, his collection includes influences from the British Dandy to the '70s rock star. With impeccable cut and exotic fabrics, his pieces demand attention. Pants are slim with a slight flare, while shirts flow loosely in hand-painted silks and python prints. Whimsical elements such as

cashmere "twinsets," velvet fur vests, military jackets, and elongated dusters create a modern chic.

New York's **GENE MEYER** manages to be sophisticated and funky at the same time. Cozy coats are oversized, in midnight wool/angora or black alpaca. Shorter jackets, in wool/cashmere blends, are worn with wide-legged brushed flannel trousers and woven silk ties in colorful geometric prints. V-neck sweaters, sometimes ribbed or cabled, in luxurious cashmere, mohair, and stretch blends, work as accents throughout.

Parisian **DANIEL FARET** creates modern pieces with old world styling. Suitings are loose but streamlined, in gray cotton flannel and Italian moleskin. Various shades of gray and blue replace black in subtle chalk stripes, and the look is offset by the omnipresent brightly colored geometric printed silk tie. Asymmetrical

closings and luxurious trims, such as velvet and faux fur, add a contemporary element.

At **JOHN SCHER**, casual elegance has an edge to it in a palette of currant and Bordeaux, that mixes with white, gray, and black. In this American collection, black stretch jeans and a fraternity jacket pair with a white dress shirt and a mohair tie. Shawl collared blazers and hooded jackets are in cotton flannel and twill. Capelet coats, hooded ponchos, and long fringed sweaters are street smart, combining an American and European sensibility.

"HIGH FIVE" continued from page 5

washable wool suits and a '70s influence. Here there is the "Say It with Flowers" shirt, navy jacket, striped tank and pants; the "Venetian Romance" striped tee and navy pants; and the "Russian Wedding Suit," with an embroidered shirt under navy stretch moleskin suit.

PERRY ELLIS

In this Fall collection, the spirit of the late designer Perry Ellis is truly evoked as Jerry Kwiatkowski offers a sartorial salute. Some of the early styles

are reinterpreted with a '90s panache in a rich array of hues such as tobacco, cinnamon, sienna and olive green. Textures and fabrics reinforce the effect. Wonderful pieces range from the tactile cable knits and the intarsia sweaters to the hooded cardigans in wool and cashmere blends. These are designed to be layered beneath tailored jackets, coats and parkas. Highlights also include the range of half-belted top coats, full-cut trousers and tweedy 2-button sport coats.

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